Claims

What is claimed is:

1   1. A method for generating and maintaining N database instances in accordance with a template,

2   said method comprising:

3   creating the template based on design information, said creating the template

4   implemented by a template manager;

5   storing the template in a template manager database, said storing the template

6   implemented by the template manager;

7   generating the N instances based on the template and on control information for the N

8   instances, said control information including configuration control information, said

9   configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said

10   N at least 2, said generating the N instances implemented by the template manager;

11   storing the N instances in the template manager database, said storing the N instances

12   implemented by the template manager; and

13   transmitting the N instances to the corresponding N locations, said transmitting the N

14   instances implemented by the template manager.

1   2. The method of claim 1, said control information further including administrative information.

1   3. The method of claim 2, said administrative information being location dependent.

1   4. The method of claim 2, said administrative information being location independent.

1   5. The method of claim 1, said control information comprising access control information, said

2   access control information identifying at least one access control group for each instance of the N

3   instances, wherein if a plurality of access control groups are associated with a given instance then

4   each such access control group of the plurality of access control groups has an independent level

5   of access control relating to the given instance.

1   6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   obtaining the design information, said obtaining implemented by an agent; and

3   transmitting the design information to the template manager, said transmitting the design

4   information implemented by the agent.

1   7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   obtaining a portion of the control information, said obtaining implemented by an agent;

3   and

4   transmitting the portion of the control information to the template manager, said

5   transmitting the portion of control information implemented by the agent.

1   8. The method of claim 1, said transmitting the N instances comprising transmitting the N

2   instances to the corresponding N locations over telephone lines or cable lines.

1   9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   refreshing the template based on update design information, said refreshing the template

3   implemented by the template manager;

4   refreshing the N instances based on the refreshed template, said refreshing the N instances

5   implemented by the template manager; and

6   transmitting the N refreshed instances to the corresponding N locations, said transmitting

7   the N refreshed instances implemented by the template manager.

     10. The method of claim 9, further comprising providing the update design information to the

     template manager, said providing the update design information implemented by an agent.

1   11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   refreshing M instances of the N instances based on update control information, said

3   M≤N, said refreshing the M instances implemented by the template manager; and

4   transmitting the M refreshed instances to the corresponding M locations, said transmitting

5   the M instances implemented by the template manager.

1   12. The method of claim 11, further comprising providing the update control information to the

2   template manager, said providing the update control information implemented by an agent.

1   13. A computer system for generating and maintaining N database instances in accordance with a

2   template, said computer system comprising a template manager and a template manager

3   database, said template manager adapted to:

4   create the template based on design information;

5   store the template in the template manager database;

6   generate the N instances based on the template and on control information for the N

7   instances, said control information including configuration control information, said

8   configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said

9   N at least 2;

10   store the N instances in the template manager database; and

11   transmit the N instances to the corresponding N locations.

1   14. The computer system of claim 13, said control information further including administrative

2   information.

1   15. The computer system of claim 14, said administrative information being location dependent.

1   16. The computer system of claim 14, said administrative information being location

2   independent.

1   17. The computer system of claim 13, said control information comprising access control

2   information, said access control information identifying at least one access control group for each

3   instance of the N instances, wherein if a plurality of access control groups are associated with a

4   given instance then each such access control group of the plurality of access control groups has

5   an independent level of access control relating to the given instance.

1   18. The computer system of claim 13, further comprising providing an agent, said agent adapted

2   to:

3   obtain the design information; and

4   transmit the design information to the template manager.

1   19. The computer system of claim 13, further comprising providing an agent, said agent adapted

2   to:

3   obtain a portion of the control information; and

4   transmit the portion of the control information to the template manager.

1   20. The computer system of claim 13, wherein to transmit the N instances comprises to transmit

2   the N instances to the corresponding N locations over telephone lines or cable lines.

1   21. The computer system of claim 13, said template manager further adapted to:

2   refresh the template based on update design information;

3   refresh the N instances based on the refreshed template; and

4   transmit the N refreshed instances to the corresponding N locations.

1   22. The computer system of claim 21, further comprising providing an agent, said agent adapted

2   to provide the update design information to the template manager.

1   23. The computer system of claim 12, said template manager further adapted to:

2   refresh M instances of the N instances based on update control information, said $M \leq N$;

3   and

4   transmit the M refreshed instances to the corresponding M locations.

        24. The computer system of claim 23, further comprising providing an agent, said agent adapted

        to provide the update control information to the template manager.

1   25. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer

2   readable code embodied therein, said computer readable code including a template manager

3   adapted to:

4   create a template based on design information;

5   store the template in a template manager database;

6   generate N database instances based on the template and on control information for the N

7   instances, said control information including configuration control information, said

8   configuration control information identifying N locations corresponding to the N instances, said

9   N at least 2;

10   store the N instances in the template manager database; and

11   transmit the N instances to the corresponding N locations.